

New England Sounding Line



The newsletter of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, Sep - Oct. 1998, Vol. 8, No. 3

Next Generation SERHOLD on the Horizon

by John Stey, Associate Director

As the holidays approach, the NER staff give thanks for we have made it through another whirlwind Fall schedule. From our perspective, the 40th NAHSL meeting/celebration was a huge success and we congratulate all who helped plan the event.

Vince Boisselle, Technology Coordinator, recently resigned and accepted a position at Trinity College. We wish him well and thank him for his contributions to the NER program. A search to replace him is in progress along with the search to fill the Education Coordinator position. Nancy Putnam has logged many miles conducting PubMed® training throughout the region while Ed Donnalld has taken his knowledge about DOCLINE® and SERHOLD® to consortia meetings.

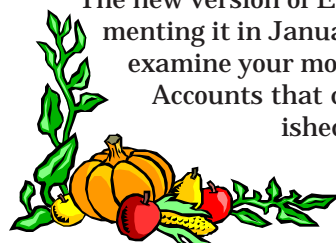
NLM has outlined the new easy to use web-based Online SERHOLD reporting system that is scheduled to become available in late summer of 1999. Currently the Medical Library Center of New York provides SERHOLD updating for UCMP participants. We anticipate that many network members will choose to do their own SERHOLD updating but we need to determine the number of institutions who will not take advantage of the new system. We encourage all network members to examine the material on the Next Generation SERHOLD at <http://becker.wustl.edu/lss/serhold99.htm>. Please contact the NER office with your decisions, questions and or concerns. See page 6 for highlights of the full document on the web.

We continue to receive daily requests for Loansome Doc™ referrals. If your library is interested in becoming a Loansome Doc provider, contact Ed Donnalld at donnalld@nso.uchc.edu or call the NER office at 1-800-338-7657 and press 1. We have sample LD policies for anyone interested in offering the service. Librarians are beginning to appreciate the ease of getting verified requests from healthcare providers within their own institution.

It's not too early to begin thinking about an Outreach Subcontract from the NER office. The Outreach RFP will be available the first of the new year for implementation May 1, 1999. To learn more about some of the projects that have been funded check out the NER home page at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner> under Outreach or call Nancy Putnam at the above 800 number.

The new version of EFTS software is currently being tested by the NER office. We anticipate implementing it in January. For those institutions that have received a "negative balance" letter, please examine your monthly statements, calculate your potential monthly debits and plan accordingly.

Accounts that contain negative balances are dropped from the system unless they are replenished before the 10th of the month. Your cooperation is appreciated by your borrowing and lending partners and the University of Connecticut Health Center.



Enjoy the holidays and drive safely if traveling.

Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont

Check us out on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/ner/>

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National Library of Medicine to Work with Public Li- braries to Help Consumers Find Answers to Medical Questions/New Consumer Health Web Site "MEDLINEplus®" Launched

(Bethesda, MD, Thursday, October 22, 1998) Pointing out that "carefully used, the Internet offers the public a wonderful opportunity for accessing timely and critical health information," Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., Director of the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine-the world's largest medical library-announced that 39 public library organizations with more than 200 locations in nine states (Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and the District of Columbia would take part in a pilot project designed to increase public awareness of and access to health information via the Internet.

The project, *Medical Questions? MEDLINE Has Answers*, will evaluate the degree to which public libraries and the Internet can help meet the health informational needs of the public. Dr. Lindberg said, "This project will help us to determine the feasibility of mounting these programs in public libraries nationwide."

NLM's partners in the Medical Questions campaign are the National Network of Libraries of Medicine™, the Kellogg Foundation, the Medical Library Association, the Public Library Association (a part of the American Library Association), and the Friends of the National Library of Medicine.

"This pilot project was prompted, in part, by growing public enthusiasm and thirst for medical information," noted Dr. Lindberg. "For more than 25 years, MEDLINE® has been one way in which health professionals have kept up with what's new in their field. Last year, Vice President Al Gore extended this same ability to all when he conducted the first free MEDLINE search on the Internet. Since then, public interest in MEDLINE has skyrocketed. The number of MEDLINE searches has increased amazingly from 7 million a year to 120 million. And, about one-third of them are being done by consumers-indicative of the increasing public appetite for health information."

Internationally renowned heart surgeon, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., praised the initiative, saying "Good information is the best medicine. Immediate access to current medical research information is as critical as the biopsy and the x-ray have been in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Not only health professionals, but also consumers, should have the most recent medical information at their fingertips."

Lindberg agreed: "Recognizing that informed consumers are better patients but have varied health information needs, NLM has developed MEDLINEplus, an easy-to-understand resource for the public which includes MEDLINE-the world's largest database of peer-reviewed information-as well as links to self-help groups, access to the NIH consumer health information, clearinghouses, health-related organizations, and clinical trials." (See page 3)

In addition to general health topics, MEDLINEplus provides access to extensive information about 20 specific diseases and conditions ("Health Topics"). The site will be continuously expanded and it is expected to include comprehensive and cutting-edge information on hundreds of diseases and conditions in the coming months.



The National Library of Medicine has put up a new web site aimed at assisting with health information needs of consumers. MEDLINEplus has pages that are designed to direct the user to resources containing information that will help them research their health questions. It's focus is educational use only and is not intended to replace advice from a health professional. The pages provide a carefully selected list of resources but not a comprehensive catalog.

Point your browser to:

<http://medlineplus.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

Health Topics	...links on common diseases and conditions.
Dictionaries	...for definitions of medical terms.
MEDLINE	...search for journal article abstracts on your topic.
Search Databases	...for articles, information.
Organizations	...providing information to consumers.
Clearinghouses	...will send health literature to you at home.
Publications/News	...for reading on-line.
Directories	...for finding doctors, hospitals.
Libraries	...for health consumers.



DOCLINE Activity

Abiomed Inc., LIBID 01923C, SERHOLD DAV has joined DOCLINE and EFTS and they are looking to expand their borrowing and lending relationships.

Toxicology Data on the Web



Have you had a chance to check out the Toxicology Data Network on the Web yet? This free-of-charge search interface provides access to the TOXNET® system of databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, and related areas. TOXNET is sponsored by the National Library of Medicine, through the Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program of its Specialized Information Services Division.

From Toxnet you can do a Toxicology Data search using the factual databanks HSDB (Hazardous Substances Data Bank), CCRIS (Chemical Carcinogenesis Research Information System) from the National Cancer Institute, and GENE-TOX (Genetic Toxicology/Mutagenicity Data Bank) and IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System) both from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Toxic Substances Releases Search, a Toxicology Literature Search, which includes DART™ (Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology) and its backfile ETICBACK, and EMIC (Environmental Mutagenesis Information Center) and its backfile EMICBACK, and link to Internet Grateful Med and PubMed.

For TOXNET and available on-line help, go to:

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/servlets/simple-search>

For additional training information visit:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/schedule.html>



Note: EFTS Members

When submitting payments to your EFTS accounts please request the accounting department to post your LIBID numbers on the check. Not knowing which account is being paid leaves us no alternative but to return checks.

New Participants-

Institution: Mayview State Hospital
LIBID: 15017A
SERHOLD: MYV
Date Joined: 11/23/98

Institution: Children's Inst. Med. Lib
LIBID: 15217A
SERHOLD: RIP
Date Joined: 11/30/98

The National Online Training Center's Schedule of Classes for 1999

The National Online Training Center's Schedule of classes for 1999 is now available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/schedule.html>. The schedule includes classes taught both at the National Online Training Center sites throughout the U.S. and at the National Library of Medicine.

The Center will continue to offer, at no charge, two classes for PubMed and Internet Grateful Med®, and a class on the chemical and toxicological databases:

- Making the Transition: Converting to PubMed and Internet Grateful Med to Search NLM's Databases.

This is a one-day class designed for experienced searchers. Individuals attending this class must have familiarity with MEDLINE, MeSH® vocabulary and Boolean logic.

- Introduction to Web-based Searching for the Librarian and Information Specialist: Using PubMed and Internet Grateful Med to Search NLM's Databases.

This is a two-day class designed for librarians and information specialists who are new to searching MEDLINE. This includes those who have never searched before, or the user with some searching experience but little prior knowledge of the MEDLINE database or the MeSH vocabulary.

- Chemical/Toxicology/TOXNET Specialized Module

This two-day class covers NLM's chemical and toxicology files, including TOXNET databases, and assumes knowledge of the ELHILL® command language. Both command language and the new TOXNET Web interface are now taught in these classes. There is no charge for this class. This Specialized Module is ONLY taught at NLM in Bethesda, MD.

For 1999, we have scheduled classes in areas that we were unable to reach in 1998. The new sites in the eastern area of the US include Morgantown, West Virginia, two sites in Pennsylvania—Philadelphia and Pittsburgh— and Knoxville, Tennessee. The National Online Training Center and NLM will be conducting over 100 classes throughout the U.S. in 1999. 1999 will also see a departure from using hospital and academic centers' computer lab facilities. The Training Center has contracted with Apple and CompUSA to use their computer facilities at various locations in several states. The labs connected with these corporations seat 20-24 adults, and the hardware and network connections are state-of-the-art and the projection equipment is top notch.

You may view a complete list of sites, the training class schedule and register online at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online/>. The classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. If a class is full, applicants will be registered for their second choice and be put on a waiting list for their first choice. Registrants will receive a confirmation notice. If this is not received within two weeks of submission of a request, please contact Mr. Charles Rapisarda at crapisarda@nyam.org OR call 1-800-338-7657, press "2" at the prompt.

All applicants will receive a packet of information pertaining to the site, 4-6 weeks prior to the date of the class. The National Online Training Center reserves the right to cancel any class that does not meet the minimum requirement which is 15 confirmed attendees. The decision to cancel is usually made one month before the date of the class.

These classes are in demand and usually fill rapidly, often creating a waiting list. In order to help the Training Center provide training opportunities to as many people as possible, if you register for a class and your plans change, please notify the Training Center office. The more advance notice you give us, the more likely it is that someone else can take the space available. It is very disappointing to begin a class with empty seats that could have been occupied. Please cooperate with the Training Center to help avoid the problems of "no-shows" that were encountered in 1998.



<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/tb.html>

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Technical Notes

- Correction to the May-June 1998 NLM Technical Bulletin article titled *MLA*
- TRI96 on TOXNET
TRI96 joined TRI87-95 in the Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (TRI) series of files
- Free TOXNET Web Interface
<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>

Impact of the NLM ILS on CATLINE®/AVLINE®/SERLINE®

CANCERLIT® and PDQ® To Be Removed from the Databases - Available from NCI's Web Site

Introducing Internet Grateful Med Version 2.6

The release of IGM 2.6 on September 2, 1998 has major changes that include:

- A new opening
- MEDLINE and PREMEDLINE searching through the PubMed system via one consolidated file covering 1966-current and eliminating the Backfiles
- Availability of related articles and links to publisher web sites for MEDLINE and PREMEDLINE
- New search screens for the following additional databases:
BIOETHICSLINE®, ChemID®, POPLINE®, SPACELINE®, TOXLINE®
- New hardware configuration with more powerful servers
- 1998 MeSH

NLM Online Training Program - 1999

<http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/online>

Gold Standard Search

Customer satisfaction with health maintenance organizations

The Winner: Cheryl Banick of Warwick, RI,

From New England ☺



Grants Gallery

by Marion Holena Levine, Assistant Director

In past issues I have mentioned Internet resources for identifying available grant and contract programs. Since many of our readers may never have written a grant, I thought I'd devote this issue's column to grant writing resources on the Internet, and there are many!

Check out the EPA's Grant Writing Tutorial available at <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm>. This site not only gives you the necessary overview of grantwriting, but also provides you with an interactive approach to the grant-writing process. Using this mock process, novices are able to write a brief grant proposal and compare their results to a successful grant application.

Another grant writing tutorial is available from the Foundation Center at <http://fdncenter.org/onlib/shortcourse/prop1.html>. This site provides a 2-part online course on how to write a grant proposal. The Foundation Center's site also gives you a great overview of what constitutes a "foundation" to the actual grant proposal process. The foundation grant proposal process is usually much easier to complete than any federal or state grant process. Often a foundation proposal can be 2-3 typed pages of text and a supporting letter. If you are interested in enhancing your position and showing that your operation can bring some income into your institution, you might want to try the foundation avenue first.

Whichever you do, good luck in your endeavor and congratulations in even taking the risk of trying. As always, the NN/LM NER staff stand ready to assist you.

Is Your Routing Table Ready for 1999?

Start the new year with an up to date routing table. Don't put it off until the new DOCLINE comes out next summer and you can update your tables yourself. Give DOCLINE Ed a call and make those nagging little changes over the phone or by e-mail or request your routing table and instructions for making extensive changes.

1-800-338-7657

1-860-679-4793

donnald@nso.uchc.edu

Next Generation SERHOLD- NLM's Response to SERHOLD Request for Information

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out and submit the SERHOLD Request for Information. Many of the comments were used to help finalize specifications for the SERHOLD and DOCUSER® components of NLM's next generation DOCLINE system.

SERHOLD, like the other two components, makes use of the ORACLE database management system with a Web interface for viewing, entering and editing data. The new DOCLINE is Y2K compliant.

Full implementation of new Online SERHOLD is tentatively planned for July 1999.

Training — DOCLINE/SERHOLD are designed to be very easy to use and incorporate appropriate online helps. If additional assistance is needed, some training may be provided.

LIBID — A new LIBID will be assigned to each library. For libraries that currently have holdings in SERHOLD, the LIBID will incorporate the SERHOLD Lib Code.

Cost for Online SERHOLD — NLM provides free access to online SERHOLD. NLM will not charge a participating library to view or edit holdings online in the new SERHOLD, or to print or download its holdings or union lists for consortia of which it is a member.

Regional Medical Libraries or their agents will continue to have the option of charging a cost-recovery fee for providing SERHOLD data entry services or to charge a cost-recovery fee for producing union lists for libraries which desire these services.

Hours of Operation — The new system is scheduled to be operational seven days a week and at least 20 hours a day.

Internet Access — Access to SERHOLD will be via the Internet. Both Netscape Navigator 4.0 and Internet Explorer 4.0 will be supported.

Libraries without Internet Access or with poor Internet Access will work through their SERHOLD coordinator to arrange for their holdings to be updated.

Concurrent Access — SERHOLD participants will be assigned a unique login ID and password which, based on their profile, allows them read/write access to Online SERHOLD. If a library has more than one staff member who updates SERHOLD, the library can request that the RML establish a separate account for each such staff member. Each account will be able to access the new SERHOLD at the same time. Other users can have concurrent view access to holdings.

Public Access — The new system gives any web user view only access to a SERHOLD library's holdings unless the library blocks public access. When the new system comes up, any library that wishes to block the general public from viewing its holdings will be able to update its DOCUSER record so that holdings will only be displayed to DOCLINE participants.

Ability to view Holding Library Information from SERHOLD — Information concerning mailing addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc., will be available in DOCUSER. Some of this information will also display within the SERHOLD component of the new DOCLINE.

Search Limits — Users can limit display based on institution, consortia, state/province, or region.

Length — Holdings will be in USMARC format. USMARC does not have a limit on the length of holdings so there is no longer a 50 character limit for a holdings string.

Level 3 vs. Level 4 — Although many respondents liked the idea of recording holdings at the issue level (Level 4), NLM has decided not to accept issue level holdings at this time. This decision was reached because of the tight timeframe for implementing this new system and the concern that possible improvements to routing would not counterbalance the increased resources required to collect, maintain and route on Level 4 holdings.

Transfer of Data from Current to New System — NLM will convert Level 3 holdings from old SERHOLD format to USMARC Holding Format. Level X holdings will be converted to Level 2 USMARC Holdings Format — this means that there will be holdings information only at the title levels (i.e. that the title is currently or not currently received). Therefore, we strongly recommend that libraries convert their Level X holdings to Level 3 as soon as possible.

Continued on page 7

Holdings for Electronic Journals — As with print publications, a library may report holdings for electronic journals only if it is willing to service loan requests for citations from those publications.

Title Changes — NLM will run a nightly program to identify all records with title changes. New holdings will be created for libraries which currently receive the old title. If NLM has holdings for the old title, the program will close the old title for holding libraries with the last volume that NLM holds; if NLM does not hold the title, holdings for the old title will remain untouched.

Call Number Information — An option for including participants' call numbers will not be provided at this time.

Online Update (Interactive Update via a Web Interface) — Any library that wishes to do so may input and maintain its own holdings online. As discussed above, if a library is unable to maintain its own holdings online, it may arrange for another institution to assume this responsibility. Holdings are updated immediately, and DOCLINE will be able to read the revised holdings as soon as the changes are made.

Batch update — Batch holdings are uploaded to NLM annually; if holdings change during the year and are not maintained online, the holdings remain unchanged until the following annual update. NLM will accept an initial batch input from new SERHOLD libraries with significant holdings and an annual batch update from current users who cannot switch to online or new members of a consortium which currently contributes batch data.

All data in the new SERHOLD system will be stored in USMARC format. After February 1999, NLM will no longer accept tapes. Instead all batch update files will be directly uploaded to the NLM system using a product called Cold Fusion rather than ftp software. Through the year 2000, NLM will continue to accept SERHOLD format holdings via batch for conversion to USMARC. After 2000, participants will have to change their method of update to either online input, OCLC/MARC batch input, or USMARC batch input. Revised specifications for submission of data in USMARC format will be available and will place the new specifications on the web in 1999 (probably around the end of summer). Instructions on this process will be provided at the same time.

Double-keying of Information — Several respon-

dents expressed concern that they would have to double-key or triple-key information. For currently received holdings, there should be little, if any update, of a library's holdings. Once a library has its holdings in SERHOLD, changes to holdings should occur only if a library stops receiving a title, the title changes, a new title is added, a gap is received, or a gap is discovered. Unless a collection is very fluid, most libraries should be able to keep their holdings up-to-date with minimal staff intervention.

Currency — Products will reflect titles and holdings as of the time the search query is executed. System constraints may preclude same day delivery.

Title changes — Individual libraries will be able to run an on demand report of NLM Title Changes by specific institution, consortia, state/province, or region for a user-defined date range.

Individual Holdings Lists — With the new system, NLM will offer each participant the ability to print or download a list of its own holdings on demand.

Union List Products — Each library will have the ability to retrieve union lists for consortia of which the library is a member. Some consortia may offer the option of printing and distributing SERHOLD Union Lists for their own members so that each member does not have to print out its own copy, and they may charge a nominal fee for cost recovery. NLM will not offer microfiche products.

Did you ever wonder...

- ▶ What is the National Library of Medicine, what does it do and what can it do for me?
- ▶ How can I find out if NLM owns a journal, book or report?
- ▶ How do I cancel or check on the status of my Loansome Doc order?
- ▶ How do I find information about a disease, medical condition, or course of therapy?
- ▶ How can I find medical statistics on a topic?
- ▶ How do I find psychological or educational evaluation tests?
- ▶ Can I use PubMed to find out how many times an article, author, or journal has been cited?

For answers to these and many other questions, check out the NLM's Frequently Asked Questions at:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/faq.html>

Calendar of Events

January 20-24, 1999

The NER staff will be exhibiting at the Yankee Dental Conference
Boston, MA

March 18, 1999

NAHSL Spring CE
File Formats and Plug-ins
Farmington, CT

March 23, 1999

NAHSL Spring CE
File Formats and Plug-ins
Lewiston, ME

March 24, 1999

NAHSL Spring CE
File Formats and Plug-ins
Hanover, NH

March 25-28, 1999

The NER staff will be exhibiting at the National Science Teachers Association Conference
Boston, MA

March 30, 1999

NAHSL Spring CE
File Formats and Plug-ins
Providence, RI

March 31, 1999

NAHSL Spring CE
File Formats and Plug-ins
Boston, MA

April 6-8, 1999

The NER staff will be exhibiting at the HealthCare Assembly
Boston, MA

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Return Address Correction Requested

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U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 13
Farmington, CT

